GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2293
ANSWERED ON:29.07.2016
Unlicensed TV Channels
Chinnaraj Shri Gopalakrishnan;Gaikwad Dr. Sunil Baliram;Gopalakrishnan Shri R.;Gupta Shri Sudheer;Jayavardhan Dr. Jayakumar;Karandlaje Km. Shobha;Mahadik Shri Dhananjay Bhimrao;Mahato Shri Bidyut Baran;Radhakrishnan Shri T.;S.R. Shri Vijay Kumar;Simha Shri Prathap;Singh Shri Kunwar Haribansh;Wanaga Shri Chintaman Navsha

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken note of many unlicensed channels are broadcasting their programmes illegally through cable operators;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has planned to mobilize State monitoring committees and the social media to keep track of such channels, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether his Ministry has also requested to the Ministry of Home Affairs to keep a track on any such broadcast, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) The other steps taken/being taken by the Government to check the such channels in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING {COL RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (Retd.)}

(a) & (b): The Cable TV Network (Regulation) Act, 1995, (hereinafter called the Cable Act, 1995) regulates the transmission and re-transmission of TV channels over the Cable Networks. The Authorized Officers (the District Magistrates, the Additional District Magistrates, the Sub-Divisional Magistrates and the Commissioners of Police within their territorial jurisdiction) under the Act are empowered to take action whenever violations of the Cable Act, 1995 are brought to notice. Under the Cable TV Networks Rules, 1994 (hereinafter called the Cable Rules, 1994), no cable operator shall carry or include in his cable service any TV broadcast or channel, which has not been registered by the Central Government for being viewed within the territory of India.

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is issuing permission to the satellite channels for uplinking and downlinking in India. Only these permitted satellite channels can be transmitted by cable operators on their network.

In addition, the cable operators can also transmit local (ground based) channels as per the Cable Act. But, the registration procedure for these channels is not defined in the Act. Ministry had sent a reference to Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in this connection. Recommendations of TRAI have been received.

(c): This Ministry has issued advisories from time to time to the State Governments and Union Territories to constitute State and District Level Monitoring Committees for recommending action against broadcast content being carried by the cable operators which are in violation of the Program Code and the Advertisement Code under the Cable Act, 1995.

Further, the Ministry has also made appeal on Social Media platform to the general public to report cases of transmission of unpermitted satellite TV channels by cable operators. Five such complaints were received. These were forwarded to the respective District Collectors for necessary action by the Authorized Officers.

Recently, the following five complaints have also been received in the Ministry on the carriage of un-permitted satellite TV channels:

i) Complaint dated 09.07.2016 from Shri T.G. Venkatesh, MP (RS) against Seema Communication Pvt. Ltd. for telecasting non permitted satellite channel 'Peace TV' in Kurnool District. The complaint was sent to the District Collector, Kurnool on 10.07.2016. He carried out instruction and found that the operator was actually carrying the non-permitted channel. Office of Seema Communication Pvt. Ltd. has been sealed and equipment seized and FIR lodged against him by the Authorized officer.
ii) Complaint dated 12.07.2016 from Shri Vinay Patil against Yashodeep Cable Network for transmission of Peace TV in Aurangabad District. The complaint was sent to District Collector, Aurangabad on 13.07.2016 for further necessary action. It has been reported that after inspection, the deputy commissioner found that this channel was not being carried out by the M/s Yashodeep Cable Network.
iii) Complaint dated 07.07.2016 from Shri Kuldeep Kumar Sahani against Venkata Sai Entertainment Pvt. Ltd. for illegal transmission of Peace TV in Nizamabad District. The complaint was sent to District Collector, Nizamabad on 22.07.2016 for further necessary action by the Authorized Officer.
iv) Complaint dated 09.07.2016 from Shri A. Thirupathi Reddy for transmission of un-authorized 'Peace TV' Channel by Sri Sai Communications in Karimnagar District. The complaint was sent to District Collector, Karimnagar on 22.07.2016 for further necessary action by the Authorized Officer.

v) Complaint dated 08.07.2016 from Nandyal Digital TV Communications against Siti Vision Digital Media Pvt. Ltd. for illegal transmission of Peace TV in Kurnool District. The complaint was sent to District Collector, Kurnool on 22.07.2016 for further necessary action by the Authorized Officer.

d): No, Sir.

(e): This Ministry on 8th July,2016 had issued advisories to the Chief Secretaries of all States/UTs Governments, the District Collectors and the MSOs/LCOs that no un-permitted satellite channel should be carried by the cable operators in the country and to take action against the defaulters as per the provisions in the Cable Act.

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